

STATE OF IOWA

Iowa Child Advocacy Board



Iowa Citizen Foster Care Review Board
Advocating for Permanency

Date of Foster Care Review: December 1, 2006

**Report to: The Presiding Juvenile Court Judge
Wabashaw County Courthouse
Wabashaw, Iowa**

Period Under Review: 6/28/06 – 12/1/06

Regarding: Jackson Myers

JVJV# 017532

DOB: 06/15/1995

Date removed from parental custody: 06/28/06

Removal reason: Due to allegations of physical abuse and neglect by the child's mother.

Date of DHS Case Plan: 10/12/06 **Permanency Goal:** Reunification

Next hearing date: 04/20/07 **Hearing Type:** Review Hearing

Next anticipated FCRB date: 06/03/07 **Foster Care Review #:** 1

Child's current placement type: Group Care

PRESENT FOR THIS REVIEW: Amanda Myers (mother); Crissy Jacobs (DHS); Cindy Malcolm (FSRP provider); Miki Getz (CASA Advocate)

OTHER INFORMATION PROVIDED FOR THIS REVIEW: James Donovan (Residential Treatment Care Coordinator) submitted a written update.

CHILD'S PLACEMENT HISTORY SINCE REMOVAL OR THE LAST FOSTER CARE REVIEW:

Date of Placement Change	Level of Care
07/11/2006	Wabashaw Mental Health Institute
07/21/2006	Shelter Care Center
09/27/2006	Wabashaw Mental Health Institute
10/27/2006	Group Care

FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD FINDINGS

	Yes	No	N/A	UNK
1. The Board finds the Case Permanency Plan (CPP) meets timelines and addresses the child(ren)'s current out-of-home placement. <i>Comments:</i>	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
2. The Board finds the written CPP permanency goal of reunification / guardianship is appropriate for the child(ren). <i>Comments:</i>	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
3. The Board finds that DHS has developed a concurrent plan for the child(ren). <i>Comments:</i>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>X</u>
4. The Board finds continued out-of-home placement is appropriate while awaiting achievement of the permanency goal. <i>Comments:</i>	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
5. The Board finds the level of placement is the least restrictive setting available to meet the child(ren)'s needs. <i>Comments:</i>	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
6. The Board finds DHS made concerted efforts to place the child(ren) with a relative or a person who has a caregiver relationship. <i>Comments: Jackson requires group care placement and treatment.</i>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>
7. The Board finds DHS made concerted and/or continued efforts to place the child(ren) with siblings. <i>Comments: Jackson cannot be placed with siblings at this time.</i>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>
8. The Board finds DHS made concerted efforts to inquire about Indian heritage, notify the tribe, and follow ICWA placement preferences. <i>Comments:</i>	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
9. The Board finds DHS has ensured appropriate services are in place to make it possible for the family to achieve the permanency goal and services are responsive to the parents' needs. <i>Comments:</i>	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
10. The Board finds the proximity of the placement to the parental home is consistent with the child(ren)'s best interests, and conducive to achieving the permanency goal of reunification (if applicable). <i>Comments:</i>	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
11. If youth is 14 years or older, the Board finds DHS has initiated transition planning for the youth. <i>Comments:</i>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>
12. The Board finds that the Court has held a permanency hearing within ASFA timelines for the child(ren). <i>Comments:</i>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>

TESTIMONY PROVIDED FOR THIS FOSTER CARE REVIEW

The Case Permanency Plan (CPP) identifies family strengths and areas of concern. The FCRB was provided with the following testimony during this review in regard to the strengths and concerns related to the CPP domains.

CHILD WELL-BEING

(Child's mental health, behavior, relationship with peers, school performance, motivation/cooperation to stay with family; relationship with caregivers, relationship with siblings)

Jackson completed a 30-day stay at the Wabashaw Mental Health Institute for an evaluation. He transitioned to Residential Treatment on 10/27/06. He is in 5th grade and now attends the on-campus school at the facility. Since his move, his mother has not yet been to visit him. Crissy Jacobs (DHS) reported that she has been in contact with James Donovan (Residential Treatment staff) and he has reported Jackson is having a difficult time adjusting to the placement and program. Concerns reported include physical aggression, refusal to perform program expectations and being disrespectful to staff and peers. He remains on Level 1-1.

PARENTAL CAPABILITIES

(Supervision of child, disciplinary practices, development/enrichment, mental health, physical health, use of drugs/alcohol)

Amanda Myers reported that she believes the children should be able to return to her care. She shared that she needs to do a psychological evaluation, meet with Cindy Malcolm, find a job and DHS wants her to go to gambling/substance abuse classes. She does not think she has a gambling or substance abuse problem. She likes to go to the casino with her sister for some time away but it does not mean she has an addiction. She voiced frustration that the case is not moving forward to having the children returned to her. Ms. Myers reported that she kicked her family members out of the home because they were not helping take care of her ill father. DHS did not want all of them in the same home so she took care of that issue.

Ms. Jacobs reported that DHS has ongoing concerns about mental health issues for Ms. Myers. She will call and leave messages on Ms. Jacobs' voicemail at all hours of the night and sounds very depressed. On a positive note, Ms. Myers has been going to the local mental health counseling center for therapy and medication management. Ms. Myers is reportedly taking her medication as prescribed. DHS needs to see more consistency and stability from Ms. Myers before they can discuss a trial home visit.

FAMILY SAFETY

(Physical abuse of child, sexual abuse of child, emotional abuse of child, neglect of child, domestic violence)

Ms. Jacobs reported that the children alleged their mother at the onset of the case physically abused them. There were also reports that Ms. Myers left the children home alone with little to no food in the home. There is a founded child abuse report against Amanda Myers for denial of critical care: failure to provide proper supervision. A safety plan is in place for family interactions and contact between the children and their mother.

FAMILY INTERACTIONS

(Bonding with child, expectations of child, mutual support within family, relationship between parents and caregivers)

Cindy Malcolm (FSRP) provides supervised visitation for Amanda Myers and her children. Ms. Myers has not been to Residential Treatment to visit Jackson despite requests by staff for her to be involved.

Sibling visits are more difficult to arrange now that they are in three different placements. Miki Getz (CASA Advocate) reported that she has only been on the case for a little less than two months. When she meets with the children, she makes video clips of them to share with their mother and siblings. The children seem to enjoy

this but it is not the same as having face-to-face interactions that Ms. Getz believes is important for the children and would like to see this arranged as quickly as possible. Jackson has had limited contact with his sisters since he was removed from the foster home back in July.

HOME ENVIRONMENT

(Housing stability, safety in community, habitability, food/nutrition, financial management, personal hygiene, transportation, learning environment, income/employment)

Ms. Myers reported that she continues to look for a job but has not had any leads lately. Her income is tight since the children's removal. Ms. Malcolm reported that she addresses budgeting and job searching with Ms. Meyers during FSRP sessions. She tries to meet with Ms. Myers once a week; however, Ms. Myers is not always home during scheduled appointment times. She would like to see more consistency in keeping appointments to work through identified issues and skill development.

OTHER INFORMATION PROVIDED FOR TODAY'S REVIEW

James Donovan (Residential Treatment Care Coordinator) submitted the following update via email dated 11/29/06:

"Since Jackson's placement in residential treatment, he has struggled with following the routine and expectations of the program. He refuses direction, will not actively engage in treatment, and has displayed some episodes of physical aggression against peers. He is on Level 1, 1 of a 4 Level Program. Jackson would like his mother to visit him at the facility. He misses her and his sisters. Phone contact can be arranged but Ms. Myers needs to call and speak with Mr. Donovan about Jackson's care and treatment plan and then they will set up a phone schedule. Involving Ms. Myers in Jackson's treatment may help him better settle into the program. He is in the on-campus school and seems to be doing well academically."

BARRIERS TO ACHIEVING THE PERMANENCY GOAL

13. Based on the discussion at this review, the Board finds the following barriers are preventing the child(ren) from achieving the permanency goal:

Barriers to achieving the permanency goal at the time of this review:	
	1. No barriers identified; achievement of the goal is in process
X	2. Lack of progress by youth to successfully complete his/her treatment program within 12 months of removal from parental custody; continued treatment due to behavioral and/or mental health
	3. Parental substance abuse issues / lack of sustained sobriety
X	4. Parental mental health issues / not stable to safely meet child's needs
	5. Parental physical health or cognitive functioning prevents ability to safely meet child's needs
	6. Parental incarceration / parent not available for reunification within 12 months of removal from parental custody
X	7. Family economic issues (inadequate housing, transportation, money management)
	8. Lack of progress by parent(s) to alleviate the concerns that led to the removal within 12 months in out-of-home placement
	9. Some progress made; parents need more time to achieve reunification
	10. Lack of local mental health counseling services for child/family to receive timely services
	11. Lack of local substance abuse treatment services for child/family to receive timely services
	12. Delays with interstate compact on the placement of children (ICPC)
	13. No one is committed to accept guardianship of the child
	14. Frequent delays in court hearings, late rulings or orders

	15. Permanency hearing not held within ASFA timelines
	16. Other:

NEW FCRB RECOMMENDATIONS

The permanency goal for Jackson is reunification. The FCRB supports this goal.

For DHS/Providers:

- Schedule sibling interactions at least once a month.

For DHS:

- Provide an update on concurrent planning for the next foster care review.

For Ms. Myers:

- Keep all interaction and service appointments during this next reporting period.
- Call Mr. Donovan to arrange for phone contact with Jackson once a week.
- Begin a gambling/substance abuse treatment program within the next 30 days.
- Cooperate with a psychological evaluation within 60 days.
- Obtain employment.

NOTIFIED OF TODAY'S REVIEW AND RECEIVING A COPY OF THIS REPORT

Crissy Jacobs (DHS); Counseling Services; Wabashaw County Attorney; Cindy Malcolm (Kidz Connection); James Donovan (Residential Treatment/Jackson's Placement); Amanda Myers (Mother); Susan Beaver (Mother's Attorney); Kate Black (DHS Supervisor); John Rugby (Child's Attorney/GAL); Miki Getz (CASA Advocate); Marta Noel (Tribal Attorney)

Submitted by: Wabashaw County Foster Care Review Board #1

Chairperson: Mary L.

Lead Questioner: Sam J.

Facilitator: Shelly Merz

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